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6-5-01  
M.L.

Our File No.: SCAL.P0001

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*Shannon Lester*  
Shannon Lester

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application for:

Coates, et al.

Serial No.: 09/695,499

Filing Date: 10/23/00

For: A NETWORK STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner: <Unassigned>

Group Art Unit: 2152

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Please amend the patent application as follows before considering the  
claims:

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**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, line 1, please insert--

**Cross Reference to Related Applications**

AI  
Cm.t

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The application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/186,693, filed  
March 3, 2000, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Implementing A Network-Based